(d) Does not arise.

JV with Israel for production of missiles

1105. SHRI D.RAJA:

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided on a joint venture with Israel for the production of missiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the general opinion in the country is against any military tie ups with Israel which will annoy the Muslim countries who share friendly relations with India; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has earlier entered into a contract with M/s Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) Israel to jointly develop a Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LRSAM) system for the Indian and Israeli Navy in January, 2006.

(c) and (d) The Government of India pursues bilateral cooperation with Israel in many fields, keeping in mind our national interests. Cooperation in the field of defence is one of the many dimensions of bilateral cooperation. This is based on our sole national interest and does not come in the way of the warm and mutually beneficial cooperation that we share with friendly Muslim countries.

Voluntary retirement by defence personnel

1106. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:. Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of personnel in Defence Services who have sought for voluntary retirement during the last three years, force-wise;

(b) whether any remedial measures have been taken in this regard;.

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The number of officers who sought discharge during the last three years, force-wise is as under:

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force
2004	435	119	249
2005	536	176	308
2006	811	259	230

The personnel below the rank of officers who have been granted voluntary retirement in the last three years, force-wise is as under:

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force
2004	15727	9	371
2005	10534	9	986
2006	8994	13	1222

The remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard are:-

(a) allowing time-bound promotions up to the rank of Colonels and equivalent.

(b) undertaking the married accommodation project for overcoming the shortage of family accommodation.

(c) creation/upgradation of posts upto the rank of Colonel and equivalent to hasten promotion.

(d) creation of the rank of Colonel (Time-Scale) and equivalent for time-bound promotion of superseded officers.

(e) professional courses for superannuating officers.

Increase in murder and suicide cases **in army**

†1107. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of murder and suicides are increasing in the Army;

(b) whether any enquiry had been conducted in 2007 in respect of promotion policy, officers behaviours and lack of facilities; and

(c) if not, by when the same will be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The number of suicide cases in the Army.is not significantly higher if compared with the national average and also with the Armies of some other countries. There have also been some incidents of fratricide in the Army. All such incidents of suicide and fratricide are viewed seriously and enquired into. Appropriate remedial measures are also taken.

(b) No enquiry has been conducted in 2007 in respect of promotion policy, officers' behaviour and lack of facilities. However, a study has been carried out by the Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR) to identify factors, which lead to these incidents and suggest remedial measures. The study report has been submitted in February, 2007. A series of measures have been taken to improve service conditions and to attend to the issue of stress among the service personnel.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi